

**INHUMANITY REFLECTED IN *THE HUNGER GAMES*
TRILOGY NOVEL BY SUZANNE COLLINS (2008-2010):
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting the Bachelor
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by:

YOSYI RAHMAWATI

A320120040

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**

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This publication article has aproved by:

Consultant



Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, Drs, MHum,

NIK. 589

ACCEPTANCE

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A320120040

**INHUMANITY REFLECTED IN *THE HUNGER GAMES* TRILOGY NOVEL
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi elemen struktural yang ada dalam novel *The Hunger Games* Trilogy penulis Suzanne Collins dan untuk mengidentifikasi ketidakmanusiaan (inhumanity) yang tercermin dalam *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel penulis Suzanne Collins (2008-2010) berdasarkan Studi Sosiologis. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa adanya tindak ketidakmanusiaan yang dilihat dari pendekatan sosiologis. Ketidakmanusiaan terdiri dari fisik, psikologi dan perampasan, dalam *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel ada ketidakmanusiawian fisik muncul seperti bidang pembunuhan di medan perang dimana banyak orang (upeti) meninggal karena mereka ingin bebas dan memenangkan permainan. Kekejaman melalui serangan psikologi juga muncul, ketika Katnis karakter utama harus membuat keputusan antara membantu, atau bisa bertahan dari temannya dan mengorbankan dirinya sendiri seperti (mengubah posisi Prim, membunuh anak laki-laki dari distrik lain setelah dia membunuh Rue, memilih untuk mati bersama dengan Peeta ketimbang membunuh dia). Perampasan tidak manusiawi juga muncul ketika capitol (Presiden Snow) mencoba membunuh Katniss, dia mencoba untuk membawa semua teman Katniss terutama orang-orang yang dekat dengannya. Berdasarkan pendekatan sosiologis dapat diketahui bahwa semua jenis tindakan tidak manusiawi secara fisik, psikologis dan kekurangan berasal dari pengaruh tradisi Amerika kuno. Dimana seperti kelanjutan Amerika tua dimana struktur masyarakat Amerika terdiri dari kaya, menengah dan miskin.

Kata kunci: ketidakmanusiawian, kemanusiaan, novel trilogi the hunger games, studi sosiologis, tradisi dan masyarakat amerika lama.

Abstract

The major problem of this study is inhumanity. The objective of this study is to analyze *The Hunger Games* trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins based on the structural elements and analyze this novel based on the Sociological Study. The researcher employs descriptive qualitative method. The researcher uses two data sources is primary and secondary data. The primary data source is about the novels itself. Then, the secondary data sources are books about sociological, references from internet about *The Hunger Games* trilogy novel. References about inhumanity theory, and other sources, which are have relations to the analysis. The method of data collection is library reseach and the technique of data collection is descriptive technique. Based on the analysis, the researcher gets some conclution. The study shows that there are character and characterization, setting, plot and theme. The result from this research

showed that there is inhumanity viewed from sociological approach. Inhumanity consists of physical, psychology and Deprivation, within *The Hunger Games* Trilogy novel there are physical inhumanity appears such as the killing field in the battle field where a lot of people (tributes) dies because they want to free and win the game. The inhumanity through psychology attack also appears, when Katniss the major character must make decision between helping, surviving her friend and sacrifice herself like (changing Prim position, killing the boy of other district after he kills Rue, choosing to die together with Peeta rather killing him). Inhumanity deprivation also appears when the capitol (President Snow) tries to kill Katniss, he tries to take all of Katniss friend especially people who is close with her. Based on sociological approach it can be found that all of kind of inhumanity action physically, psychologically and deprivation coming from the influence of old America tradition. Where its like the continuation of old America where the structure of American society consists of rich, middle and poor. Based on economy aspect, where people who live in capitol can live luxurious and do whatever they want, or event watching the game while drinking and laughing.

Keywords: inhumanity, humanity, the hunger games trilogy novel, sociological study, old america tradition and society.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human has their own specialties which are different from other creature. Human brain and heart to think and feels but other creatures just live with their nature and instinct. But, sometimes the specialties of human lost because they did not those two (brain and heart), sometimes it makes human become inhuman. They are like animal, that always move and act only with instinct. It can be seen on many of war around the world, and it also can be seen when criminal do their action by hurting people with no mercy. This is called as inhumanity. Usually people who gets the inhumanity will have a lot of suffering or serious injury to body or mentally, because the form of inhumanity so variant, such as cruel treatment or torture physically, mocking (will hurt people mentally), bullying, using people as a black sheep etc, so that is why it will hurt people physically and mentally. (Weissbrodt, 2011: 350).

Inhumanity of people sometimes appears spontaneously, while for some the use of cliché was a handy response when the emotions were too strong and words

failed them, for many, clichés offered a source of refuge, as in the last response. Here, the respondent feels powerless against cruelty, but is relieved of feeling too much responsibility as it is, after all, ‘man’s inhumanity to man’. Moreover, the cliché works to make this history almost enviable- it is ‘man’s inhumanity to man’, and thus any acknowledgement of cultural and historical responsibility can be sidestepped (Waterson in Smith, 2010: 204). The researcher wants to dig little bit deeper about inhumanity in a certain literary work that is novel. The novel will be *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins (2008-2010)

From the above explanation the researcher interesting to do the research of the novel because of several reasons. First, the novel is also visualize in the movie where it is also the trilogy, the second, the novel is better than the film where a lot of event that is not visualize in the movie, The third, the book tells about the future world, where it can be happened if the world controlled by greedy and crazy government. So based on the reasons above, the researcher interests to make the analysis entitled “Inhumanity Reflected in *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins (2008-2010): A Sociological Study”.

Based on the background of the study, the research problems are focused on identifying the structural elements that builds *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins and to identifying inhumanity reflected in *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins (2008-2010) based on Sociological Study.

There are some previous researches. First did by Kjellaug Therese Hauge Hamre (2013) entitled “Suzanne Collins’ Hunger Games Trilogy and Social Criticism”. The second, did by Sara Peterson (2011) entitled “*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins: Entertainment or Social Criticism?”. The third, did by David Weissbrodt (2011) entitled “Defining Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment”. The similarities with this research are, the reserach from Kjellaug Therese Hauge Hamre (2013) and Sara Peterson (2011) have the same focus of the subject of Hunger Games Trilogy. While with David Weissbrodt (2011) the same

of the object analysis inhumanity. The difference are the research of Kjellaug Therese Hauge Hamre (2013) analyze the novel through social criticism in common. While the research of Sara Peterson (2011) analyze the novel through comparison between social criticism and entertainment. The research from David Weissbrodt (2011) also different where he analyze all kind on inhumanity form and its threatment.

2. METHOD

This is a descriptive qualitative research. The subject of this researcha was*The Hunger Games*Trilogy novel written by Suzanne Collins and published by Scholastic Press in 2008-2010. The object of the research wasinhumanity Reflected in *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novel by Suzanne Collins (2008-2010). In collecting the data the reseacher reading *The Hunger Games* Trilogy Novelrepeatedly and reading the theory books that supports the analysis, taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data, underlying the important word, phrases and sentences which are related to the study, and collected it based on its data code. The technique of analyzing data the researcher analyzing the novel focused on the problem statement related to the inhumanity and Katniss' respons related to the inhumanity on the game in the hunger games trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins, trying to decide the relation between inhumanity and sociological analysis of the literary work, making discussion of the finding, and making conclusion.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

Inhumanity consists of pyschical, sexual, psychological and deprivation. So in the Hunger Games trilogy novel there are inhumanity appears, and it can be seen below.

3.1.1 Physical where it is always related to physic injury and its involve physical fight.

Physical injury always showed on every fight scene in the novel, especially on the battlefield. In the novels, a lot of deaths are described in detail including the weapon used. One example is when Rue is trapped and wounded. Katniss pointing arrow and lands it in the neck of the boy that speared Rue. So, the physical inhumanity can be seen from both the dead of the boy and the dead of Rue. It can be seen on below quotation.

The boy from District 1 dies before he can pull out the spear. My arrow drives deeply into the center of his neck. He falls to his knees and halves the brief remainder of his life by yanking out the arrow and drowning in his own blood. I'm reloaded, shifting my aim from side to side, while I shout at Rue, "Are there more? Are there more?" (HG/Par.1/p.230)

She has to say no several times before I hear it. Rue has rolled to her side, her body curved in and around the spear. I shove the boy away from her and pull out my knife, freeing her from the net. (HG/Par.2/p.230)

Both of quotations showed about the physical inhumanity in the Hunger Games. First the boy who dies because the arrow land on his neck. This is Katniss' arrow. Katniss finally makes decision to kill the boy because the boy has through the spear to Rue. She really angry and she land her arrow unconsciously. And the physical inhumanity on Rue also showed with the death of her because of the spear from the boy. It can be seen that in the Hunger Games, the death become audience celebration, it shows that the death is become the main purpose of the game.

3.1.2 Psychological where it is the violence that attack human mentally.

The psychological violence also appears in the novel, where a lot of event of the character makes themselves hurt psychologically. It can be seen below.

"Prim, let go," I say harshly, because this is upsetting me and I don't want to cry. When they televise the replay of the reappings

tonight, everyone will make note of my tears, and I'll be marked as an easy target. A weakling. I will give no one that satisfaction. "Let go!" (HG/Par.3/p.24)

The above quotation shows that Katniss really facing bad situation on her heart. First, on the election she does not want if she gets involve with the Hunger Games and the capitol. But, when the election day come, she heard that Prim (her sister) choosen as the tribute on Hunger Games. That really makes her very confuse, affraid and angry. Katniss does not want if she loses Prim on the field. So, suddenly she volunteers her self to change with Prim. She wants to sacrifice herself for the Prim safety. This is also part of President Snow's way to choose the tribute. He really wants to know something amazing happen on the district. Psychologically, Katniss really hit about Capitol's decision by choosing her sister.

3.1.3 Deprivation or neglect that compromise the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

The form of deprivation in the novel looks clear, such as when doing the election for the killing game, arresting people from each district, and killing all innocent people. It is almost the same with the physical and psychological inhumanity, where all involve stealing human's right and human's freedom. It can be seen below.

The capitol always makes annual event named Hunger Games. This event always involved people from each district, and the craziest thing is that on this hanger game, people must kill each other and only remain one winner. It can be seen below.

"Prim, let go," I say harshly, because this is upsetting me and I don't want to cry. When they televise the replay of the reappings tonight, everyone will make note of my tears, and I'll be marked as an easy target. A weakling. I will give no one that satisfaction. "Let go!" (HG/Par.3/p.24)

The above quotation is the election that did by the president randomly. Usually the president or the capitol chooses the tribute (the name of participant of

hunger game) based on their capability or based on anything. So, this kind of election include in deprivation because they choose people to die. Eventhough this is annual event on capitol but a lot of people does not agree with the event. The capitol does not care about humanity, they only care about the show, how the capitol become famous and the people in it can be controlled by the leader (President Snow).

So, based on the above analysis it can be found that there is relation between inhumanity and sociology, where inhumanity appears can be because of the situation and condition of social. For example on the Hunger Games Trilogy novel all kind of inhumanity action did by President snow as the impact of the development of new era of America. In Panem, the Hunger Games is a form of propaganda which utilizes the spectacle of violence, drama and reality television to make sure that the message gets through. Its like the continuation of old America where the structure of American society consists of rich, middle and poor. But in the novel only has two people with power and civiliant and the victom is the civiliant. Still there is no different between the old America and the new Panem (Capitol). Like usual people who has power like people in Capitol and president snow has great power to arrange civilian especially in asking them to follow the deathfull game.

Based on economy aspect also similar, where people who live in capitol can live luxurious and do whatever they want, or event watching the game while drinking and laughing. The idustrial side controled by people who has power while the civilian must work for them. So, the profit and the product all belongs to the people on the capitol. There are clearly class struggles that encourage comparing the very wealthy to the very poor. For example in the novel, where huge different between rich people and poor people, when Katniss herself cannot grasp the level of accommodations on the train that takes her from District 12 to the Capitol with the luxurious fabrics, soft furnishings, and bountiful food

servings. She has never seen fine dishes, and even then she is more interested in the delicate food she describes in every location. It looks that the system of America in the past still remain in the novel.

3.2 Discussion

From the above analysis there are inhumanity viewed from sociological aproach. Inhumanity consists of physical, psychology and Deprivation, each of inhumanity elements usually the same about injuring or hurting human, but the different is that on the spot or the point of its injured. Within the Hunger Games Trilogy novel there are physical inhumanity appears such as the killing field in the battle field where a lot of people (tributes) dies because they want to free and win the game. The killing can be everything such as hitting, stabbing, shooting or all of slays activity and loosing others live. The inhumanity through psychology attack also appears, when Katnis the major character must make decision between helping, surviving her friend and sacrifice herself like (changing Prim position, killing the boy of other district after he kills Rue, choosing to die together with Peeta rather killing him. Katnis also must make hard decision by following all refugees to run free or stay on the district to kill President Snow. Inhumanity deprivation also appears when the capitol (President Snow) tries to kill Katniss, he tries to take all of Katniss friend especially people who is close with her. President Snow try to take Prim on the election, he is also take Peeta by kidnaping him.

Based on sociological approach it can be found that all of kind of inhumanity action physically, psychologically and deprivation coming from the influence of old America tradition. Where its like the continuation of old America where the structure of American society consists of rich, middle and poor. So the rich people will take control all among the poor. People who has power like people in Capitol and president snow has great power to arrange civilian

especially in asking them to follow the deathfull game. Based on economy aspect, where people who live in capitol can live luxurious and do whatever they want, or event watching the game while drinking and laughing. There are clearly class struggles that encourage comparing the very wealthy to the very poor. For example in the novel, where huge different between rich people and poor people, when Katniss herself cannot grasp the level of accommodations on the train that takes her from District 12 to the Capitol with the luxurious fabrics, soft furnishings, and bountiful food servings. She has never seen fine dishes, and even then she is more interested in the delicate food she describes in every location.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the structural elements of the Hunger Games trilogy novel it can be found that there are character and characterization, setting, plot and theme. The major characters are Katniss, Peeta, Gale and Haymitch Abernathy, while the minor characters are Cinna, President Snow, Rue, Thresh, Cato, and Portia. While the minor characters are the character who always support the major character on every scene. There are also setting found on the novel where it consists of setting of time, place and social setting. The setting of time is not mentioned clearly, it is only some event that shows the time of the story. Such as the Hunger Games ceremony as an annual event in Capitol Panem. The other setting of time only showed with the time of the days, clock, etc. The setting of place showed in the novel mainly the training camp at capitol, the jungle at district 12 and the jungle for the place of Hunger Games. While the social setting showed by the event of Hunger Games it self. The plot of the Hungry Games trilogy are the same where all consist of exposition, conflict, climax and resolution and each novel was made as the continuation of the previous novel. The last is the theme on the novel. From all the novel (Hunger Games trilogy) it can be found that the story runs clear and connects each other. So, it has the same theme as the unity of the

whole story. The theme of the novel is that “Strong power of humanism can be used as media to control and defeat broken government”.

From the above analysis there are inhumanity viewed from sociological approach. Inhumanity consists of physical, psychology and Deprivation, Within the Hunger Games Trilogy novel there are physical inhumanity appears such as the killing field in the battle field where a lot of people (tributes) dies because they want to free and win the game. The inhumanity through psychology attack also appears, when Katnis the major character must make decision between helping, surviving her friend and sacrifice herself like (changing Prim position, killing the boy of other district after he kills Rue, choosing to die together with Peeta rather killing him). Inhumanity deprivation also appears when the capitol (President Snow) tries to kill Katniss, he tries to take all of Katniss friend especially people who is close with her. Based on sociological approach it can be found that all of kind of inhumanity action physically, psychologically and deprivation coming from the influence of old America tradition. Where its like the continuation of old America where the structure of American society consists of rich, middle and poor. Based on economy aspect, where people who live in capitol can live luxurious and do whatever they want, or event watching the game while drinking and laughing.

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